



District attorneys refuse to prosecute some GOP-led laws

By JONATHAN MATTISE

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

When Republican lawmakers in Tennessee blocked a policy to ease up on low-level marijuana cases, Nashville's top prosecutor decided on a workaround: He just didn't charge anyone with the crime.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, the Gwinnett County solicitor vowed not to punish anyone for the crime of distributing food or water to voters in line. Tampa's chief prosecutor says a law that allows law enforcement to detain protesters until their court date is "an assault on our democracy." And a district attorney in Douglas County, Kansas, promised not to enforce a new state law that makes it harder for nonpartisan groups and neighbors and candidates to collect and return absentee ballots for voters.

Progressive prosecutors around the country are in-

creasingly declaring they just won't enforce some GOP-backed state laws, a strategy at work in response to some of the most controversial new changes in recent years — near-total abortion bans, voting restrictions, limits on certain protest activity, laws aimed at LGBTQ people, and restrictions on mask requirements. The elected law enforcement leaders say they're just doing what is right as support has grown for changing a system they believe has relied too heavily on locking people up, particularly for low-level, nonviolent offenses.

But politics is also at play here. These lawyers live in deep blue districts where their decisions are popular with voters, and they have to be reelected. "The real limit on this is political," said William & Mary Law School professor Jeffrey Bellin.

Continued on Page 2



In this Aug. 28, 2019, file photo, Nashville District Attorney Glenn Funk speaks in Nashville, Tenn.
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District attorneys refuse to prosecute some GOP-led laws

Continued from Front

"These prosecutors have to stand for election almost everywhere in the country. Ultimately, the limit on this is popularity."

Prosecutors wield wide discretion over whom to charge with crimes, and they can hold off based on factors that include the strength of an individual case, the severity of the offense and, sometimes, the prosecutor's views on a law's constitutionality.

Last October, more than 70 prosecutors from blue districts around the country publicized that they won't bring charges under increasingly stringent laws that states have passed against abortion because they "should not and will not criminalize healthcare decisions," even if the landmark abortion rights case *Roe v. Wade* is eroded or overturned.

And in June, more than 70 elected prosecutors and law enforcement leaders signed a similar letter pledging not to charge doctors or parents who could face criminal penalties under state laws barring certain medical treatments for transgender youth.

"We know that our country has seen a past where some have sought to criminalize interracial marriage or individuals of different race who choose to sit at a lunch counter together, or ride a bus together, or



Gov. Bill Lee speaks during the Tennessee Higher Education Commission session of the state budget hearings Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

use certain bathrooms and certain drinking fountains," said Miriam Krinsky, executive director of Fair and Just Prosecution, which published the statements. "Change often starts at the ground and moves its way on up."

In Nashville, Glenn Funk has made a habit of resisting GOP-passed laws, saying people in his city "really want a common sense approach to the criminal justice system that keeps us safe and does not incarcerate folks without good reason." The Democrat's stand comes as his 2022 Nashville reelection bid is approaching, in which he expects a challenge for another eight-year term. Funk rebuffed Republican Gov. Bill Lee this summer, saying he would not prosecute teachers and school officials enforcing mask

mandates in defiance of an executive order that let parents opt their students out of mask mandates.

Funk said he "will not prosecute school officials or teachers for keeping children safe."

He also refused to enforce a 2020 law requiring medical professionals to inform women undergoing medication-induced abortions that the procedure could be reversed, which medical experts say is not backed by science. He deemed the law "unconstitutional" and said "criminal law must not be used by the State to exercise control over a woman's body." Tennessee passed a first-of-its-kind law this year that required a notice outside public bathrooms at businesses that effectively says transgender people could be inside. Funk made it

known that he wouldn't be enforcing that, either, saying his office "will not promote hate."

Judges paused the policies about bathroom signs and abortion reversals statewide and blocked the school mask opt-outs in three big counties.

Funk said prosecutors need to use the "levers of power" to provide "a check and balance on overreaching" by other branches of government.

"It's also incumbent, I think, upon public officials who disagree to stand up and say so," Funk told The Associated Press. "Because if people who are elected officials just stay quiet in the face of unconstitutional laws being passed, in the face of a social debate that might actually be dehumanizing large sections of our population, then if nobody speaks up, then the impression is that there is a not another side to this argument, and that there really is no argument."

A Vermont state's attorney isn't prosecuting possession of addiction therapy drugs, including buprenorphine. Seattle's county prosecutor stopped filing charges for small personal drug possession, and a prosecutor in Washtenaw County, Michigan, and multiple prosecutors in New York City have stopped charging prostitution crimes as long as it's consensual. In Philadelphia, before federal courts

blocked the opening of overdose prevention sites, the district attorney said he would not charge people who open and run them.

In Florida, 13th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Andrew Warren, covering the Tampa area, called one new state law "an assault on our democracy." It stiffens penalties for crimes committed during a riot or violent protest and was passed after protests in the wake of George Floyd's death. It's on hold by a federal judge. But prosecutorial discretion can cut both ways—especially on COVID-19 mandates. In Pennsylvania, York County District Attorney Dave Sunday, a Republican, told police not to issue criminal citations related to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's statewide schools masking order, saying his office would not prosecute violations.

Republican lawmakers have aired plenty of grievances about Funk, though so far their efforts to rein him in have been unsuccessful. Rep. John Ragan, who sponsored the business bathroom signage law, asked the state attorney general for an opinion on whether Funk's refusal to enforce the business bathroom law was grounds to remove him from office. Republican Attorney General Herbert Slatery's office declined to weigh in, citing ongoing lawsuits on the law. □

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Navy probe finds major failures in fire that destroyed ship

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Navy report has concluded there were sweeping failures by commanders, crew members and others that fueled the July 2020 arson fire that destroyed the USS Bonhomme Richard, calling the massive five-day blaze in San Diego preventable and unacceptable.

While one sailor has been charged with setting the fire, the more than 400-page report, obtained by The Associated Press, lists three dozen officers and sailors whose failings either directly led to the ship's loss or contributed to it. The findings detailed widespread lapses in training, coordination, communication, fire preparedness, equipment maintenance and overall command and control.

"Although the fire was started by an act of arson, the ship was lost due to an inability to extinguish the fire," the report said, concluding that "repeated failures" by an "inadequately prepared crew" delivered "an ineffective fire response."

It slammed commanders of the amphibious assault ship for poor oversight, and said the main firefighting foam system wasn't used because it hadn't been maintained properly and the crew didn't know how to use it.

The report describes a ship in disarray, with combustible materials stacked, scattered and stored improperly. It said maintenance reports were falsified, and that 87% of the fire stations on board had equipment problems or had not been inspected.

It also found that crew members did not ring the bells and alert sailors that there was a fire until a full 10 minutes after it was discovered. Those crucial minutes, the report said,

caused delays in crews putting on fire gear, assembling hose teams and responding to the fire.

Sailors also failed to push the button that would

have activated the fire-fighting foam system, even though it was accessible and could have slowed the progress of the fire. "No member of the crew interviewed considered this action or had specific knowledge as to the location of the button or its function," the report said.

The report spreads blame across a wide range of ranks and responsibilities, from the now retired three-star admiral who headed Naval Surface Force Pacific Fleet — Vice Adm. Richard Brown — to senior commanders, petty officers, lieutenants and civilian program managers. A total of 17 were cited for failures that "directly" led to the loss of the ship, while 17 others "contributed" to the loss of the ship. Two other sailors were faulted for not effectively helping the fire response.

Adm. William Lescher, the vice chief of naval operations, has designated the commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet to handle any disciplinary actions for military members. It's not clear if any have yet been relieved of command or removed from jobs as a result of the fire.

But the report said failures of Brown; Rear Adm. Scott Brown, the fleet maintenance officer for the Pacific Fleet; Rear Adm. William Greene, the fleet maintenance officer for U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Rear Adm. Eric Ver Hage, commander of the regional maintenance center; Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, commander of Navy Region Southwest; Capt. Mark Nieswiadomy, commander of Naval Base San Diego; and Capt. Tony Rodriguez, commander of Amphibious Squadron 5, all "contributed to the loss of the ship."

The report also specifically faults the ship's three top officers — Capt. Gregory Thoroman, the commanding officer; Capt. Michael Ray, the executive officer; and Command Master Chief Jose Hernandez — for not effectively ensuring the readiness and condi-

tion of the ship.

"The execution of his duties created an environment of poor training, maintenance and operational standards that directly led to the loss of the ship," the report said of Thoroman. And it said Ray, Hernandez and Capt. David Hart, commander of the Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, also failed in their responsibilities, which directly led to the loss of the ship.

More broadly, the crew was slammed for "a pattern of failed drills, minimal crew participation, an absence of basic knowledge on firefighting" and an inability to coordinate with civilian firefighters.

The ship was undergoing a two-year \$250 million upgrade pierside in San



In this July 12, 2020, file photo, smoke rises from the USS Bonhomme Richard at Naval Base San Diego in San Diego, after an explosion and fire on board the ship at Naval Base San Diego.

Associated Press

Diego when the fire broke out. About 138 sailors were on board, and nearly 60 were treated for heat exhaustion, smoke inhalation and minor injuries. The failure to extinguish or contain

the fire led to temperatures exceeding 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit in some areas, melting sections of the ship into molten metal that flowed into other parts of the ship. □



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UNC may keep affirmative action in admissions, judge says

By BRYAN ANDERSON AND JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that North Carolina's flagship public university can continue to consider race as a factor in its undergraduate admissions, rebuffing a conservative group's argument that affirmative action disadvantages white and Asian students.

U.S. District Judge Loretta Biggs ruled late Monday that the University of North Carolina has shown that it has a compelling reason to pursue a diverse student body and has demonstrated that measurable benefits come from that goal.

"In sum, the Court concludes that UNC has met its burden in demonstrating that it has a genuine and compelling interest in achieving the educational benefits of diversity," Biggs wrote. Students for Fair Admissions sued UNC in 2014, arguing that using race and ethnicity as a factor in college admissions violates the equal protection cause of the Constitution and federal civil rights law. The group contended that UNC had gone too far in using race as a factor in admissions and had thus "intentionally discriminated against certain of (its) members on the



In this March 18, 2020 file photo, a pedestrian walks through campus at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

basis of their race, color, or ethnicity."

The group's president, Edward Blum, told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that it would appeal by day's end to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. His group already appealed a denial in a similar lawsuit against Harvard University. Blum said he hopes both cases get bundled together so that the U.S. Supreme Court rules simultaneously on private and public universities.

"Shame on Harvard, shame on UNC and shame on all universities who take fed-

eral funds from considering race as an element," said Blum, who has long sought to rid college admissions of race-based admissions policies. The Supreme Court in June asked the Justice Department to weigh in on Blum's Harvard lawsuit, which was supported by former President Donald Trump's administration. Trump's Justice Department also challenged Yale University's admissions practices in a suit President Joe Biden's administration dropped earlier this year. UNC countered in court that its admission practices are legally and constitu-

tionally permissible and that race-neutral alternatives would not enable it to achieve its diversity goals. Of roughly 20,000 undergraduate UNC students this fall 2021 semester, approximately 56% are white, nearly 13% Asian, about 10% Hispanic, and 8.5% Black, the university said.

"This decision makes clear the University's holistic admissions approach is lawful," said an emailed statement from Beth Keith, a spokesperson for the university. "We evaluate each student in a deliberate and thoughtful way, appreciating individual strengths,

Associated Press

talents and contributions to a vibrant campus community where students from all backgrounds can excel and thrive."

Judge Biggs wrote that she applied the U.S. Supreme Court's University of Texas precedent, which established that schools may consider race in admissions in ways narrowly tailored to promote diversity.

She noted that UNC "offered a principled and reasoned explanation," supported by research, for its pursuit of a diverse student body, citing a 2005 report by a UNC task force that its academic goals depend on "a critical mass" of students from underrepresented groups.

"The University has presented substantial evidence demonstrating its good faith in pursuing the educational benefits that flow from diversity," the judge concluded.

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law represented a racially diverse group of students who intervened in the case demanding that the university to even more to support minorities. Its statement said considering race in admissions helps ensure that talented applicants from historically marginalized groups aren't overlooked. □



Firefighters work on a fire burning at the former Market Street Wharf early Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021, in New Orleans.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The remains of an abandoned river wharf went up in flames over the weekend in New Orleans as fireworks went off nearby, but officials haven't yet deter-

mined whether the display played a role in the enormous fire. The fireworks began around 10:30 p.m. on Saturday, The Times Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

Abandoned New Orleans wharf burns down; fireworks to blame?

City records show that a permit was obtained for a "land-based pyrotechnic display" along the Mississippi River at Mardi Gras World, where many of the floats used in the yearly Carnival season processions are stored. New Orleans Fire Department inspectors monitored the show, which was put on for a gala.

Within 30 minutes of the display starting, wooden pieces of the former Market Street Wharf lit on fire a few hundred feet up the river.

Winds pushed the fire

close to the entrance of an active wharf, which is where police noticed it. More than 40 firefighters tended to the flames that stretched about four blocks at their peak, the fire department said in a statement. No injuries were reported.

David Spear — co-owner of AFX Pro, which put on the fireworks show — told the news outlet that he understands the pyrotechnics need to be investigated in relation to the fire. But he said the flames started more than 200 yards (182 meters) away

from the clearance area required between the display and homes, vehicles or people. Spear also said the winds at the time were well below the safety limit and that the decision to continue with the fireworks was made in consultation with the fire department inspector on site.

The former wharf used to house heavy materials that ships brought into the port. Termite attacks and Hurricane Katrina damaged it, and a 2006 fire almost completely destroyed the facility when it was being torn down. □

Hezbollah brag of 100,000-strong force aimed at foes at home

By ZEINA KARAM and

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A boast by the leader of Hezbollah that he commands 100,000 fighters came as a surprise to many Lebanese, not least because it was addressed to a domestic audience rather than the militia's archenemy Israel.

Experts say the figure, which exceeds the size of Lebanon's army by about 15,000 troops, is an exaggeration. But Hassan Nasrallah's brag is likely to further ratchet up anxiety about a return to sectarian fighting in the small country roiled by a series of devastating crises. "This is more about flexing Hezbollah's muscles to demonstrate its power against other opposing political parties that want to undermine it," said Dina Arakji, a researcher at Control Risks, a Dubai-based global risk consultancy group.

Nasrallah made the declaration Monday as part of the growing confrontation over a judicial investigation into last year's massive Beirut port explosion that killed more than 215 people and devastated parts of the city. Hezbollah and its Shiite allies from



In this Feb. 13, 2016 file photo, Hezbollah fighters hold flags as they attend the memorial of their slain leader Sheik Abbas al-Mousawi, who was killed by an Israeli airstrike in 1992, in Tefahat, south Lebanon.

Associated Press

the Amal Movement led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri want the lead judge removed, accusing him of bias. Deadly gunbattles broke out last week in Beirut during a demonstration organized by the two Shiite parties, after their supporters came under fire as they marched through Christian neighborhoods on their way to the Justice Palace.

Clashes with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, reminiscent of the 1975-90 civil war, played out for several hours along a former front line separating the Muslim and Christian sectors of the city. The Iran-backed Hezbollah accused the Christian Lebanese Forces party of starting the fighting in which seven Shiites were

killed. Lebanese Forces leader Samir Geagea denied his group was the aggressor, but said residents of Christian areas could not be blamed for defending themselves against armed Hezbollah militiamen marching through their neighborhoods. In Monday's speech, Nasrallah accused Geagea of seeking to reignite a civil

war and said he was forced to announce the number of Hezbollah fighters "not to threaten a civil war, but to prevent one."

Hezbollah is a largely secretive organization and it is difficult to independently verify Nasrallah's claim about the size of the force. Hezbollah rarely comments on its military structure, weapons or number of fighters. Most estimates for the number of fighters, however, range between 25,000 and 50,000, including 10,000 elite troops known as the Radwan Force and a separate reserve force. Hezbollah is known to have stepped up recruitment in the years after the 2006 war with Israel. In the past decade, however, it lost nearly 2,000 members while fighting in Syria alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces in that country's civil war. Nasrallah said in his speech that those troops were armed and trained for warfare against Israel, not for an internal armed conflict. Arakji, the analyst, said it was significant that he chose a speech about the Lebanese Forces and last week's Beirut violence to reveal the figure. □

U.S. defense secretary underlines support for Ukraine

By YURAS KARMAU

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Ukraine on Tuesday, underlining Washington's support for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity amid a tense standoff with Russia.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the U.S. as the country's "chief partner in security and defense" during a meeting with Austin.

Austin emphasized that the U.S. and its allies remain committed to supporting Ukraine's right to decide its own future foreign policy. "U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering," Austin said. "So we again

call on Russia to end its occupation of Crimea, to stop perpetuating the war in eastern Ukraine, to end its destabilizing activities in

the Black Sea and along Ukraine's borders, and to halt its persistent cyberattacks and other malign activities against the Unit-

ed States and our allies and partners."

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 following the ouster of the country's Moscow-leaning president. Moscow also has thrown its weight behind a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine that erupted weeks after the annexation of Crimea and has killed more than 14,000.

The annexation of Crimea and Russia's support for the rebels in eastern Ukraine has driven Moscow-West relations to post-Cold War lows.

The tensions rose once again earlier this year when Russia increased troop numbers near its borders with Ukraine, including in Crimea, fueling inter-

national concerns.

The Kremlin has described Ukraine's bid for prospective membership in NATO as a red line and a major threat to its security.

Speaking after his talks in Kyiv on Tuesday, Austin underlined that "no third country has a veto over NATO's membership decisions." "Ukraine, as you have heard me saying earlier, has the right to decide its own future foreign policy and we expect they will be able to do that without any outside interference," he said.

"And again, we continue to work together with our partner to make sure that right things are at place, to ensure that Ukraine can defend itself and protect its territories." □



Ukrainian Defense Minister Andriy Taran, left, and U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin lay flowers on a monument commemorating fallen defenders in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

Israel gives legal status to 4K in gesture to Palestinians

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said Tuesday it would grant legal residency to 4,000 Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, a gesture to the Palestinian Authority that will allow people who have lived under severe restrictions for years to get official IDs.

It's one of a series of gestures announced after a rare high-level meeting in August between Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas aimed at strengthening the PA, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank and coordinates with Israel on security.

Israel is trying to bolster the increasingly unpopular and autocratic PA in order to weaken its militant Hamas rivals, who rule the Gaza Strip. Other gestures include loaning some \$155 million to the cash-strapped PA and authorizing an additional 15,000 permits for Palestinian laborers to work in Israel and its settlements. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is opposed to the creation of a Palestinian



In this Sept. 6, 2021 file photo, Israeli soldiers watch as a Palestinian laborer crosses through a damaged section of the Israeli separation fence, returning home after a day's work in Israel, in the West Bank village of Jalameh, near Jenin.

state and has shown no interest in reviving peace talks, which stalled out more than a decade ago. Israel is also continuing to build and expand settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories it captured in the 1967 war that the Palestinians want for their future state.

But Israeli officials have

vowed to take steps to improve the Palestinian economy and daily life in order to reduce frictions.

"The stronger the Palestinian Authority is, the weaker Hamas will be," Gantz was quoted as saying after his meeting with Abbas. "And the greater its ability to govern is, the more security we'll have and the less

we'll have to do."

The Israeli defense body that oversees civilian affairs in the territories said it would approve the registration of 1,200 Palestinians who have been living in the West Bank for many years but are not listed in the Palestinian population registry. It will approve a change of address for 2,800 Pal-

estinians who moved to the West Bank from Gaza prior to 2007, when Hamas seized power.

Hussein al-Sheikh, a senior Palestinian official who serves as the liaison with Israel for civilian affairs, confirmed that a "first batch" of 4,000 names had been approved and said the PA was working to secure more.

Israel, which controls all access to the occupied West Bank, must approve any changes to the Palestinian population registry, which is administered by the PA. When the second Palestinian uprising broke out in 2000, Israel restricted new registrations to children under 16 with a resident parent.

That and other Israeli policies have left an estimated tens of thousands of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza without legal status, severely limiting their freedom of movement. They include foreign nationals mainly Palestinians from other countries who married Palestinians in the territories and have families there. □

Portugal honors diplomat who saved thousands from Nazis

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal paid official homage Tuesday to Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese diplomat who during World War II helped save thousands of people from Nazi persecution, by placing a tomb with his name in the country's National Pantheon.

Leading Portuguese politicians and public figures attended the formal televised ceremony as the tomb was placed alongside other celebrated figures from Portuguese history at the landmark Lisbon building. The speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues, said Sousa Mendes' conduct lent prestige to Portugal.

"People who at the decisive moment put their and their family's safety at risk

for the greater good are rare. Sousa Mendes was one of those people," Ferro Rodrigues said in a speech. The ceremony marked the completion of Sousa Mendes' 80-year journey from ostracized Portuguese civil servant to honored international personage.

Perhaps Portugal's most famous 20th-century diplomat, Sousa Mendes defied his superiors, including dictator António Salazar, when as consul in Bordeaux, France, in 1940 he handed out visas to many people who feared being hunted down by the Nazis. The Portuguese visas allowed people, including Jews fleeing the Holocaust, to escape through neutral Portugal by air and sea to the United States and elsewhere.

The Portuguese diplomatic service was supposed to ask for the Lisbon government's specific consent to grant visas to certain categories of applicants, as the country trod a careful path of neutrality, but Sousa Mendes gave out visas on his own initiative.

Leah Sills, a board director of the Sousa Mendes Foundation in the United States, said she flew in for the ceremony "to be able to honor the man that rescued my father and my grandparents" on May 24, 1940.

"It's been just a beautiful experience," she said.

Álvaro Sousa Mendes, a grandson of Aristides Sousa Mendes, said his family had seen an ambition fulfilled.

"This was a ceremony we had been requesting for a long time," he said. "Finally



Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa delivers a speech during a ceremony paying homage to Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Portuguese diplomat who during World War II helped save thousands of people from Nazi persecution, at the National Pantheon in Lisbon, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

he was recognized ... with National Pantheon honors." Breaking the rules got Sousa Mendes fired from the diplomatic service, with public shame attaching to his family at the time. He died in poverty in 1954. Decades later, he won recognition for his key role in saving people from the Na-

zis. In 1966, Israel's national Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, recognized Sousa Mendes as a "Righteous among the Nations."

Last year, he drew praise from Pope Francis, and last March the U.S. Senate in a motion saluted "the humanitarian and principled work" of Sousa Mendes. □



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In Cuba, divisions over law to allow same-sex marriage

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Adiel and Lachi are anxious to get married, perhaps dressed in black, in a ceremony by the seashore.

The idea bothers the Rev. Moises de Prada, who like many of his parishioners opposes a proposal to legalize same-sex marriage in Cuba.

The socialist government recently published a draft Family Law and asked for public comment ahead of a referendum, creating an unusually public clash over policy on the island where Pentecostal churches have been growing.

For Adiel González, a 31-year-old theologian, the idea of submitting his right to marriage for a public referendum is painful.



Evangelical Pastor Moisés de Prada poses with members of his church as he holds a cross made out of the words to the prayer "Our Father" in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021.

Associated Press

"You are submitting to the vote of a heterosexual, heteronormative majority the rights of a minority," he said from his apartment in the central city of Matanzas, where two cats roam

and a cross in the rainbow colors of the gay flag hangs from a wall.

Both he and his partner, 51-year-old accountant Lázaro "Lachi" González, work at the relatively main-

line Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas.

"God has no stepchildren, so we are all daughters and sons of God and what Adiel and I do it have a life with love," Lázaro González

said. The proposed law, which is to be considered by Parliament after the still unscheduled referendum, has more than 480 articles. It would also formally expand grandparents rights, allow for prenuptial agreements and in cases of divorce have financial consequences for those who have committed gender violence.

Parents could decide whether children's paternal or maternal surname has precedence. Children's rights would be gradually expanded as they grow.

But the biggest controversy is over changing the definition of marriage in the current law, which specifies it is between a man and a woman, to merely say between two people. □

Mexico City brings charges against 10 in subway collapse

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico City prosecutors announced Monday they have brought criminal charges against 10 "individuals and companies" for construction and de-

sign defects that caused an elevated subway line to collapse in May, killing 26 people.

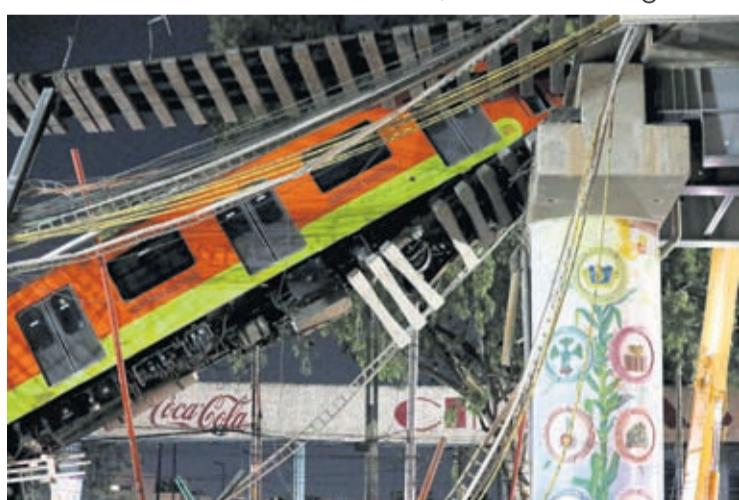
Ulises Lara, the spokesman for the city attorney general, said the charges are

for negligent or involuntary homicide, damages and causing injuries.

Lara did not name those charged, in keeping with presumption of innocence rules.

But local media reported they included former city officials responsible when the subway line was built more than a decade ago. Lara said that no arrest warrants were issued for those involved and that they would be told to appear before a judge at the initial hearing in the case, scheduled for Oct. 25.

Prosecutors say expert studies found the collapse was caused by construction defects like poor welds and missing connection studs. Bad design also allegedly played a role. □



In this May 4, 2021 file photo, Mexico City's subway cars lay at an angle after a section of Line 12 of the subway collapsed in Mexico City.

Associated Press



infini
by Urvin Croes

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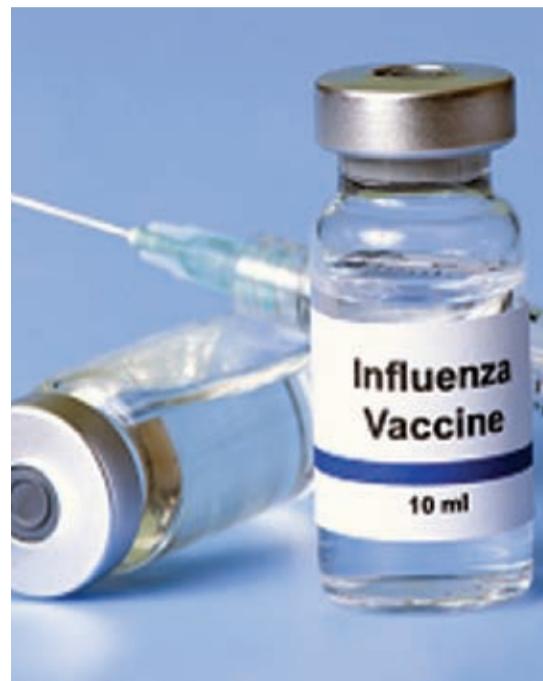
ORANJESTAD - Every year during October, the Department of Public Health receives the yearly stock of flu vaccines.

Individuals at high risk of complications due to the seasonal influenza virus can receive the flu vaccine. This group consists of individuals older than 60 years or younger with chronic illnesses. Persons 60 years and older will receive the flu vaccine free of charge and do not need a doctor's prescription.

Individuals 60 years and older should make an appointment with the department of infectious diseases by calling 5224239 or 5224241 and should show their valid AZV card upon arrival.

Those with a chronic illness and under 60 years can only receive their vaccine with the doctor's description. Only with a doctor's prescription can they make an appointment with the Department of Infectious Diseases by calling 5224239 or 5224241. They also have to present their valid AZV card and doctor's description on the day of the appointment.

Everybody, not 60 years or older and not



suffering from a chronic disease but wants to receive the flu shot, should contact the Department of Infectious Diseases from Monday to Friday between 7:45 am -11:45 am and 1:15 pm - 4:15 pm. The vaccine costs Awg. 20.00.□



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Raynold Semeleer named Director of Catering & Events, at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

PALM BEACH — August 16th seems to be Raynold Semeleer's lucky day. On that date, 8 years ago, he was named Event Manager at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, and in 2021, Director of Catering & Events.

"It is my pleasure to share with you," says General Manager Vasco Baselli, "that our colleague Raynold Semeleer has been promoted to the position of Director of Catering & Events. Raynold began his career at our resort almost 17 years ago, at the Front Desk as a Guest Service Representative. After a promotion to Front Office Supervisor, he followed two management development programs, focusing on Food & Beverage and the Rooms Division. His diligence paid off, as he launched a very successful career as Events Manager, a position in which he developed an extraordinary rapport with guests and event planners, particularly with some of the resort's large repeat groups. Congratulations, Raynold, on a job well done, you will also have our full support in your new role."

According to Raynold, hospitality was supposed to be a brief episode on his way to becoming an expert in criminology, but then he fell in love with the profession, and made an about turn. Raynold reports loving every aspect of his job: Taking care of clients, and their clients, exceeding guests' expectations and improving the resort's bottom line. It's all in a day's work, he states.

Over the past 17 years, Raynold traces his trajectory through his department, exploring its many aspects from leisure based clients to large incentive groups, many romantic weddings, the local market with its seasonal planning, corporate functions, and catering big and small. In his new role as Director, he is responsible for his department's financials, and budget, and says he is forever learning new skills, grateful for the opportunity to show his abilities and develop his potential.□

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The Kitchen Table enters seventh year of gastronomic success on NEW location: A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine

EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your- best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.00PM. Around 6.30PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says

Robert J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch

In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the World's Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why



Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website [www.thekitchentableinaruba.com](http://thekitchentableinaruba.com) or call them at +297-280 7117. □



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ATA presents its official budget and plans for 2022

ORANJESTAD - Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) presented its plans and budget for 2022 to the Minister of Tourism Dangui Oduber.

The budget and plans for 2022 started back in April. This is the 11th consecutive year, ATA is presenting its official documents with the approval of its Supervisory Board before September 1, as indicated by law. Notwithstanding the challenges caused by the Covid pandemic, Aruba is experiencing positive tourism developments, as seen back in the plans and budget for 2022. One of the main objectives is to reach 95% of stay-over visitor arrivals, compared to 2019, a record year for Aruba. Ronella Croes, the CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, stated that their plan is very ambitious. International Marketing remains the key priority for the ATA. However, various projects will help develop the tourist product of Aruba". She indicated that it is crucial to have the funds available to execute the plans as presented. Some adjustments to the plan and budget may be necessary, but ATA's plans are in sync with the vision and policies of the Minister of Tourism. One particular subject that stands out in the plans is the focus on durable tourist product development. It mentions a program that helps coordinate visitor flow. It entails a variety of landmarks to assist with the improvement of the experience of the visitors. Before officially presenting the plan, ATA

already presented some segments to the Minister of Tourism and on World Tourism Day.

Recovery and growth

There are four national indicators for 2022 (compared to 2019):

1. A recovery of 95% Stay-over Visitor Arrivals;
2. A recovery of tourism credits (expenses each visitor plans before their visit and during their visit) with a minimum of 95%;
3. 3% growth of the Average Daily Rate (ADR);
4. Recovery of Cruise Tourism of 31% and 77%.

Three objectives

The ATA has set three main objectives for 2023:

- Increase the tourism economic value;
- Aruba's position as desired and sustainable destination;
- Take the lead in the positioning and development as a destination.

The plan entails increased community involvement in tourism; the improvement of the experience and the tourists when visiting. They will also work to expand the average amount spent in Aruba by each visitor; ensuring sustainable tourism by creating a balance between the needs of the community, the visitors, and the destination. They also included a contingency plan to be able to react effectively in case of an emergency. The Covid pandemic



has changed the global scenario completely. Marketing and communication strategies for the different markets have been reviewed and adjusted. They considered the way Aruba profiles/markets abroad and connects with potential new visitors while maintaining the connection with existing visitors. The primary focus remains the air traffic and sustained marketing investments. To continue to secure more airlifts to our island and sustain the marketing investment for our most important market, namely North America. Additionally, the diversification strategy of the European and Latin American markets will continue. The A.T.A. has demonstrated his ability to guide and Aruba's position as a destination. This position makes Aruba enjoy the benefits of the tourism industry and its guests. It will continue to work on the three primary goals for the next three years, as outlined in "Our Tourism 2025 Aspiration"; innovation, sustainability, and leadership.□

Gelatissimo Introduces Spooky Boo Halloween Treat

Gelatissimo Aruba is known for creating the best tasting gelato that Aruba has to offer, and this Halloween inspired gelato flavor is no exception to that rule. The Spooky Boo is sure to delight each palette, adding a little bit of fear of overindulging in its deliciousness.

The multi-colored gelato consists of 3 layers; Black Hawaii, Mandarin and Wild berry. Each scoop gives a delicious layer of midnight black, blood red, and pumpkin orange. The perfect color combination to have you reminiscing about those spooky Halloween themed mov-



ies and decors. What's most interesting about this blend is the fact that there are no artificial flavors in this gelato delight, it is gluten-free and doesn't contain nuts. Thus, making this option a must have for everyone, even the most health-conscious.

The spooky boo gelato special is available for the entire month of October at Gelatissimo Palm Pier, Gelatissimo Corner, and Gelatis-



simo Wholesale. All you need to do is ask for the Spooky Boo and prepare for the fright.

For more information go to www.gelatissimoaruba.com.□

GIANNI'S
GROUP

As Bitcoin goes mainstream, Wall Street looks to cash in

By STAN CHOE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Love cryptocurrencies or hate the very idea of them, they're becoming more mainstream by the day. Cryptocurrencies have surged so much that their total value has reached nearly \$2.5 trillion, rivaling the world's most valuable company, Apple, and have amassed more than 200 million users. At that size, it's simply too big for the financial establishment to ignore.

Firms that cater to the world's wealthiest families are increasingly putting some of their fortunes into crypto. Hedge funds are trading Bitcoin, which has big-name banks starting to offer them services around it. PayPal lets users buy crypto on its app, while Twitter helps people show appreciation for tweets by tipping their creators with Bitcoin.

And in the latest milestone for the industry, an easy-to-trade fund tied to Bitcoin began trading on Tuesday. Investors can buy the exchange-traded fund from ProShares through an old-school brokerage account, without having to learn what a hot or cold wallet is. It's all part of a movement across big businesses that see a chance to profit on the fervor around the world of crypto, as a new ecosystem further builds up around it, whether they believe in it or not.

"The one thing you can say for certain is that the advent of the era of the Bitcoin ETF opens up the opportunity for Wall Street to make money on Bitcoin in a way that it hadn't been able to previously," said Ben Johnson, director of global ETF research at Morningstar. "The winners in all of this are the exchanges and the asset managers and the custodians. Whether investors win or not is a big, bold question mark."

Bitcoin has come a long way since someone or a group of someones under the name Satoshi Nakamoto wrote a paper in 2008 about how to harness



ProShares CEO Michael Sapir poses for photos outside the New York Stock Exchange before his company is listed, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021. ProShares will launch the country's first exchange-traded fund linked to Bitcoin.

Associated Press

computing power around the world to create a digital currency that can't be double-spent. The price has more than doubled this year alone to roughly \$62,000. It was at only \$635 five years ago.

Supporters of cryptocurrencies say they offer an ultra-important benefit for any investor: something whose price moves independently of the economy, rather than tracking it like so many other investments do. More high-minded fans say digital assets are simply the future of finance, allowing transactions to sidestep middlemen and fees with a currency that's not beholden to any government.

Critics, meanwhile, question whether crypto is just a fad, say it uses too much energy and point to all the stiff regulatory scrutiny shining on it. China last month declared Bitcoin transactions illegal, for example. The chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Gary Gensler, said in August that the world of crypto doesn't have enough investor protection and "it's more like the

Wild West." That hasn't been enough to halt the immense momentum for crypto, as it's gone from an online curiosity to a bigger part of the cultural and corporate landscape.

U.S. Bank earlier this month said it has begun offering a cryptocurrency custody service for big investment managers. That means it essentially holds their Bitcoin in safekeeping for them, and it expects to offer support for other coins soon. Other name-brand banks have also announced intentions to offer custodial services for crypto.

"It's not just in the fringes and dark corners of the Web that it's happening," said Kashif Ahmed, president of American Private Wealth in Bedford, Massachusetts.

Ahmed doesn't recommend his clients invest in crypto. Before then, he said he'll need to be able to "go to my local supermarket and buy things for my family and offer crypto and not be laughed out of the store."

In a survey by Citi Private Bank of family offices

around the world that manage money for wealthy people, roughly 23% said they have made some investments in crypto. Another 25% said they are researching it.

The growing acceptance of crypto on Wall Street has created a new crop of darlings that help people buy it. Crypto trading platform Coinbase has a market value of roughly \$64 billion, for example, putting it on par with such established companies as Colgate-Palmolive, FedEx and Ford Motor. At Robinhood Markets, meanwhile, the company that became famous for getting a new generation of investors into the stock market is increasingly becoming a place for crypto trading. This spring was the first time when new Robinhood customers were more likely to make their first trade in cryptocurrencies rather than in stocks.

In the end, what many on Wall Street see lasting may not be as much Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies as the technology that underlies them. Called the blockchain, it allows for a

public ledger that everyone can check and trust, and many expect it to lead to a wealth of innovations. It's akin to today's Netflix, Facebook and other services that sprung out of the infrastructure built during the boom and bust of the dot-com bubble.

"The applications built on this new software architecture appear to be growing more quickly than past technologies," Bank of America strategists Alkesh Shah and Andrew Moss wrote in a recent research report. "Digital assets are only in their first inning of growth. New companies are likely to emerge and poorly positioned companies will exit, creating significant upside potential for some and downside for others."

JPMorgan Chase, for example, is already using blockchain technology to improve fund transfers between global banks. That's the same JPMorgan Chase run by CEO Jamie Dimon, who said in an interview with Axios this month that bitcoin has "got no intrinsic value." □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Muscle

1 Deliberate quality

5 Frost, for one

DOWN

9 Women's quarters

11 Do a Thanks-giving job

12 Furious

13 UFO pilot

14 Snapshot

15 Strands

17 Bars

19 Writer

Harper

20 Lukewarm

21 Checkers

side

22 Hackneyed

24 Neon, for

one

26 Cost as

much as

29 Swindle

30 Silk

sources

32 Seaside

pools

34 Got

together

35 Vigilant

36 Bush's

successor

38 Odometer

units

39 Birth-

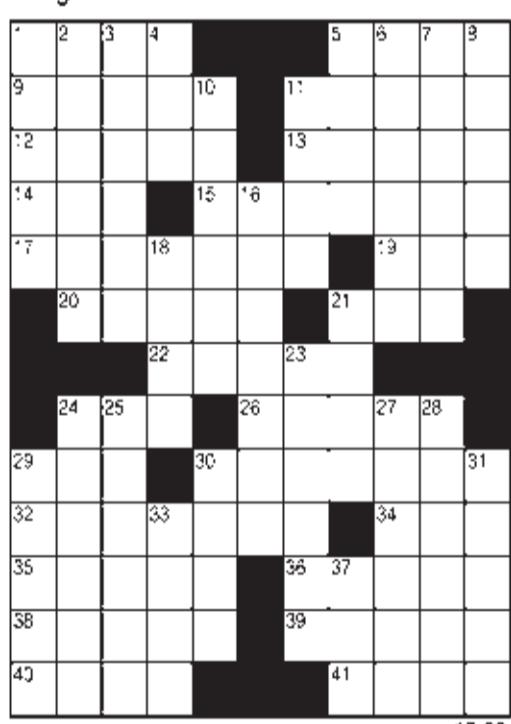
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contents

**Yesterday's answer**

18 Makes a choice
21 Nevada city
23 Arizona city
24 Player in a mask
25 Lansbury of
26 Fireplace units
27 Soup choice
28 Kind of band or show
29 Surgery aid
30 Barracks beds
31 Past its best
32 Refinery rocks
33 Sluggers need



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three Ls, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-20**CRYPTOQUOTE**

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C W B T N Y O Y K J Z F A L N W Z

C L B N T Z O H Z Z F C H V Z N E O T R

Y A C H V O Q F O L B C N H .

— Y C K K C A X A O H G C H V

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU TAKE CARE OF THE SMALL THINGS, THE BIG THINGS TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. — EMILY DICKINSON



In this Monday, Dec. 17, 2012 file photo, a herd of adult and baby elephants walks in the dawn light as the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, sits topped with snow in the background, seen from Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya.

Associated Press

Climate report: Africa's rare glaciers soon to disappear

By CARA ANNA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Africa's rare glaciers will disappear in the next two decades because of climate change, a new report warned Tuesday amid sweeping forecasts of pain for the continent that contributes least to global warming but will suffer from it most.

The report from the World Meteorological Organization and other agencies, released ahead of the U.N. climate conference in Scotland that starts Oct. 31, is a grim reminder that Africa's 1.3 billion people remain "extremely vulnerable" as the continent warms more, and at a faster rate, than the global average. And yet Africa's 54 countries are responsible for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The new report seizes on the shrinking glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda as symbols of the rapid and widespread changes to come.

"Their current retreat rates are higher than the global average. If this continues, it will lead to total deglaciation by the 2040s," it says.

Massive displacement, hunger and increasing climate shocks such as droughts and flooding are in the future, and yet the lack of climate data in parts of Africa "is having a major impact" on disaster warnings for millions of people, WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said at Tuesday's launch.

Estimates of the economic effects of climate change vary across the African continent, but "in sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic

product by up to 3% by 2050," Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko with the African Union Commission writes in the report. "Not only are physical conditions getting worse, but also the number of people being affected is increasing."

By 2030, up to 118 million extremely poor people, or those living on less than \$1.90 a day, "will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa if adequate response measures are not put in place," Sacko adds.

Already, the U.N. has warned that the Indian Ocean island nation of Madagascar is one where "famine-like conditions have been driven by climate change." And it says parts of South Sudan are seeing the worst flooding in almost 60 years.

Despite the threats ahead to the African continent, the voices of Africans have been less represented than richer regions at global climate meetings and among the authors of the crucial Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientific assessments. African participation in IPCC reports has been "extremely low," according to Future Climate for Africa, a multi-country research program.

The costs ahead are huge. "Overall, Africa will need investments of over \$3 trillion in mitigation and adaptation by 2030 to implement its (national climate plans), requiring significant, accessible and predictable inflows of conditional finance," the WMO's Taalas said.

"The cost of adapting to climate change in Africa will rise to \$50 billion per year by 2050, even assuming the international efforts to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius." □

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Mötley Crüe's Nikki Sixx looks back at lean, driving years

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Before he was a heavy metal icon, he sold lightbulbs. Before he shouted at the devil, he shouted at his mom. Before he was Nikki Sixx, he was Franklin Feranna.

The Mötley Crüe co-founder and bassist looks back at his formative years in his new autobiography "The First 21: How I Became Nikki Sixx," revealing family secrets and the origins of his drive to succeed.

"If some young musician picks up my book, they're going to go, 'Oh, wow.' Yes, it's entertaining. And, yes, there's revelations. But there's sort of a roadmap in here to success," Sixx says, before adding: "Don't use my exact roadmap."

Few heavy metal acts were as notorious in the 1980s onstage as well as off as Mötley Crüe, whose songs include "Looks That Kill," "Shout at the Devil" and "Girls, Girls, Girls." Fueled by drugs and booze, their stage show included excessive amounts of pyro and chain-sawing the head off a mannequin filled with blood.

"The First 21," written with Alex Abramovich, charts Feranna's birth in 1958 to the date in 1980 — before



Nikki Sixx attends the premiere for "Long Time Running" at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Canada on Sept. 13, 2017.

Associated Press

Mötley Crüe founded — when he finally let go of his father and legally rechristened himself Sixx, a name he admits he stole from another artist. The book release coincides with his other band Sixx:A.M. releasing a retrospective album with their biggest hits. Elements of his childhood seemed idyllic as he bounced from farm to farm and state to state, including Idaho and Washington. He put playing cards in the spokes of his bike to mimic the sound of a motorcycle and went to Dairy Queen.

He sold worms for pocket money and played defensive end on the high school football team. (Later, in Mötley Crüe, he would paint dark stripes under his eyes as a tribute to those days). But there was also neglect and a complicated family life. His father abandoned him early on and his mother was a wild-child, who once dated Richard Pryor. He reveals he had a sister, Lisa, who was born blind and with Down syndrome. He was never allowed to know her. "I was angry for a long time

and I think a lot of that anger fueled a lot of music. Drive and anger probably helped catapult myself and my band," says Sixx. "By writing the book, I discovered a lot about my dad, discovered a lot about myself." Sixx was mostly raised by his grandparents, and they instilled in him a fierce work ethic. He worked hard — on potato farms, in steel manufacturing, rug cleaning, being a janitor, selling light bulbs. To be fair, there also was some shoplifting and light breaking and entering. His car was so busted up he had to drive it backward if he wanted to go up hills. He even sold his own blood.

"I learned a very, very valuable lesson very early in my life: You work hard and you don't complain," he says. "I work extra hard because I don't think I'm naturally as gifted as some of my peers."

That work ethic showed up in the writing of the book, says Brant Rumble, an executive editor at Hachette Book Group who edited Sixx's book and has worked with such stars as Julie Andrews, Peter Frampton, Rob Halford, Barry Sonnenfeld and Patton Oswalt.

"He didn't relent and he wanted this to be all it could be," says Rumble. "When you work on books by people who are notable for other walks of life — whether they're musi-

cians or comedians or actors or whatever they are — you don't always get that, right? They're not as involved. But not the case with Nikki. He applies the hard work to whatever he does and it shows."

There are fascinating life-changing pivot points — Sixx calls them "moments of impact" — like the decision to take a Greyhound bus down to Los Angeles with just his guitar, some cassettes and a bagful of clothes.

Another was when he was offered the bassist spot in what would become another influential metal band, Quiet Riot. For some reason, he declined, even though his band at the time, London, wasn't taking off. "The rock god up there said, 'No, not for you. You're just going to stay over here and starve a little bit longer,'" Sixx says.

He has included plenty of photos to document the transformation from all-American small town boy to skinny rock god with long hair. He also purposely included ones capturing him in an awkward stage. "I put those photos in the book on purpose because I wanted people to be like, 'Yeah, I had that, too.'"

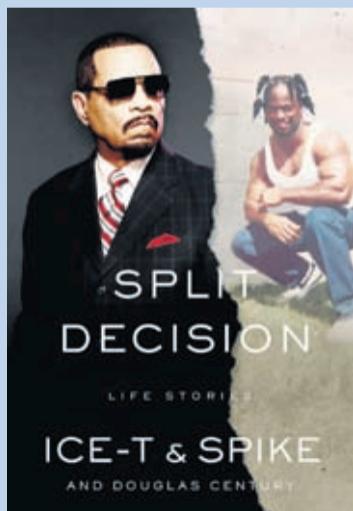
Sixx barely mentions his Mötley Crüe bandmates, Tommy Lee, Vince Neil and Mick Mars, who have been covered in his "The Heroin Diaries," "This Is Gonna Hurt" and Neil Strauss' "The Dirt."

This is very much Sixx's story, a father now himself settled in Wyoming with his family — not far from Idaho, where much of his story started — who is feeling around in his past.

"I really wanted to come at this with empathy on some of the characters that were in my life because it'd be really easy to bring out the guillotine, start taking people's heads off," he says.

"Families are hard. It's not easy being a parent. It's not easy being a friend. It's not easy being in a band. Life's not always easy. So how can you look at it? Learn a lesson from it and pass it on to the next person that's in line behind you." □

Ice-T remembers path not taken in memoir 'Split Decision'



This cover image released by Gallery Books shows "Split Decisions: Life Stories" by Ice-T & Spike and Douglas Century, releasing July 19, 2022.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ice-T has never forgotten the path his life might have taken.

The rapper and actor has a deal with Gallery Books for the memoir "Split Decision," in which Ice-T and his longtime friend, identified only as Spike, look back on their time as partners in jewelry heists in Los Angeles and elsewhere. Spike ended up in prison while Ice-T went on to fame as a musician and for his roles in "New Jack City" and the TV series "Law & Order: SVU" among others. Gallery, a division of Simon & Schuster, will publish the book July 19, 2022.

"I grew up in a very bad set of circumstances and my trajectory was that of a dangerous career criminal, not a famous actor and musician," Ice-T said in a statement Tuesday. "It was one split decision that put me on a positive path that changed my life forever." Spike, who spent more than 20 years in prison before his release in 2016, said in a statement that the book was a story "of change, redemption and solidarity."

"I hope we will inspire readers — especially at-risk youth — about the ripple effects of all our choices," he said. □

No jab, no job: Rolovich gets pink-slipped at Wazzu

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

You're never going to convince guys like ex-Washington State coach Nick Rolovich to get the shot. It's a waste of breath.

The best scientists and all the evidence in the world couldn't. Losing a \$3 million-a-year job didn't. Even public pleas from the likes of Alabama's Nick Saban, Clemson's Dabo Swinney and Georgia's Kirby Smart — guys who command genuine respect in the business — failed to make a dent.

Rolovich, who was hired in January 2020, was fired for cause by the university Monday after blowing through a deadline mandating that state employees get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Despite being Washington state's best-paid employee, he has yet to explain why. Four assistants who similarly refused the jab joined him on the unemployment line. If this was supposed to teach his players a lesson about personal responsibility, it backfired. Rolovich owns every bit of this.

"This is a tough day for Washington State football," athletic director Pat Chun said, announcing the firings at a news conference where he also said Rolovich's request for a religious exemption was denied.

"No one," Chun added, "wants to be here."

Except that Rolovich did. He said in July he wouldn't



Washington State defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Jake Dickert, center, stands on the field during a break in play in the second half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, in Pullman, Wash.

Associated Press

get vaccinated, and despite knowing it could mean he'd be forced to walk away from his team in midseason, he repeated it Saturday, not long after a win over Stanford.

"I've been settled for a long time on it. I believe it's going to work out the right way. If that's not what Pat (Chun) wants," Rolovich said, "then I guess I've got to move on. "But I like being here, I like being the coach here," he added. "I love these kids. I've just got faith in it."

If that's the case, maybe Rolovich should have shared some of the reasons for his faith before it came to this. He didn't, likely because there aren't any. All he said was "for reasons

which will remain private. ... I will not comment further on my decision."

Let's be clear: There's not a college coach in the country popular or successful enough to defy the law and get away with it, and none who want to repeat the mess that was the pandemic-interrupted 2020 season. Rolovich, it turns out, isn't exactly flush on either count.

Though the Cougars have won three straight, he's 5-6 overall — three WSU games were canceled last season as a result of COVID-19 — and Cougars fans were already growing restless. Rolovich might be a minor cause celebre at the moment, but when the

rest of the college football world moves on, he'll be a footnote, likely remembered most for matching the shortest tenure at any Pac-12 school in the last 60 years.

In the bargain, he became exactly the kind of distraction that coaches are always warning their players about. And unlike NBA star Kyrie Irving, who last week became sport's best-known anti-vaccination advocate, there's a good chance Rolovich has overestimated his value.

June Jones, who mentored Rolovich during his time on the staff at Hawaii, always found him a handful. For that reason alone, Jones was one of the most public

members of the fraternity urging his former assistant to change his mind.

"He was a quarterback, kind of his own guy, a leader," Jones said recently. "He's been that way as a coach. He believes that he doesn't need to take it and doesn't want to take it, and he doesn't want somebody telling him what to do."

What goes around, though, comes around. Only last year, Rolovich effectively chased off sophomore receiver Cassidy Woods after the player first expressed concerns about opting out of the season to safeguard his health and then informed the coach of his planned involvement with a Pac-12 players' rights movement that was gaining strength at the time.

"I'd call it a dramatic irony," Woods said about Rolovich's predicament in an interview with The New York Times. He wound up transferring to Northern Colorado and has filed a lawsuit against his former coach and Washington State.

"Every person's decision should be respected, but he didn't respect my decision," Woods continued. "The rule for me was if you opt out, you're not going to be part of the team. Now he wants to opt out of the vaccine. Does he want to be part of the team?"

The answer is no, apparently, at least not if it requires the kind of sacrifice Rolovich expects from everybody but himself. □

76ers suspend Simmons 1 game for conduct detrimental to team

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Ben Simmons has been suspended by the Philadelphia 76ers for one game due to what they called conduct detrimental to the team. Simmons will miss the 76ers' season opener Wednesday night at New Orleans.

"I just thought he was a distraction today," coach Doc Rivers said Tuesday after practice. "I didn't think

he wanted to do what everybody else was doing. It was early. It wasn't a big deal. I just told him he should leave. We went on with practice." The three-time All-Star guard was a holdout in training camp in the wake of his off-season trade demand. He reported last week and practiced Sunday and Monday with the Sixers. Simmons lingered outside the huddle, dribbled a basketball and looked uninterested

during a team huddle at Monday's practice, where he did not practice with the first team. Sixers All-Star center Joel Embiid said Tuesday he wasn't here to "babysit" Simmons.

"At this point, I don't care about that man," Embiid said. "He does whatever he wants." The 25-year-old from Australia had four years and \$147 million left on his max contract when he decided he wanted a trade. "Every day, every

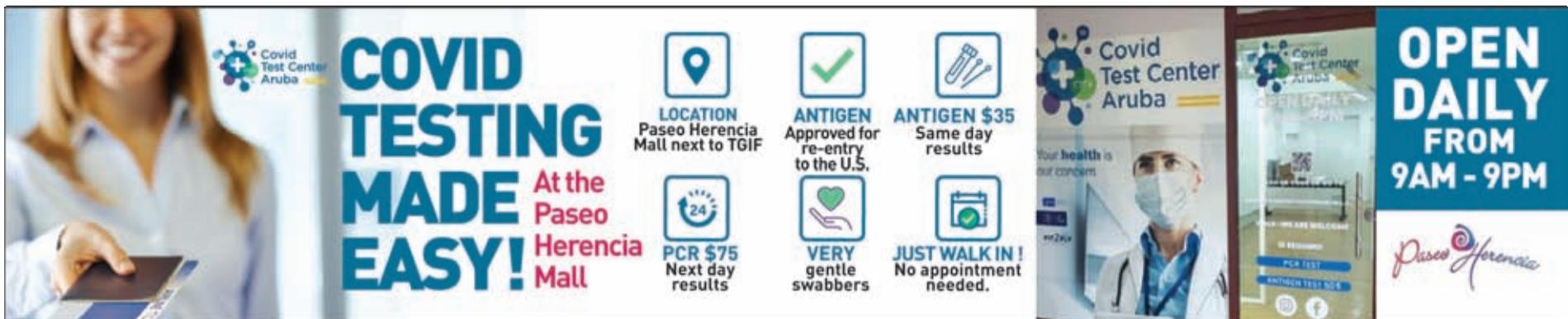


Philadelphia 76ers' Ben Simmons takes part in a practice at the NBA basketball team's facility, Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, in Camden, N.J.

Associated Press

single moment, I'm going to give Ben a chance to join the team and be part of the team," Rivers said. "He's under contract to be part of the team and that's not

going to change. Sometimes it happens quick and guys join back in. Sometimes it doesn't. I've been in both situations and I'm fine with that." □



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Fill-ins lead first-place, unrattled Cards & Raiders to wins

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — The first-place Arizona Cardinals and Las Vegas Raiders each conquered pestilence and hardship as longtime assistants rallied their resilient teams to road victories in Week 6.

The sickness the Cardinals had to conquer was COVID-19.

The Raiders' scourge was bigotry.

Defensive coordinator Vance Joseph steered the unbeaten Cardinals to a 37-14 rout of the Cleveland Browns just 48 hours after head coach Kliff Kingsbury, the teams' offensive play caller, was sidelined with a breakthrough case of COVID-19, as was quarterbacks coach Cam Turner. Joseph credited the entire staff and especially assistant receivers coach Spencer Whipple, who handled the communication to Kyler Murray, who threw for four touchdowns as the Cardinals (6-0) remained the NFL's only unbeaten team and continued their best start in 47 years.



Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) is helped up after his run was ruled short of the distance needed for a first down on the Bills' final play of the game against the Tennessee Titans in an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 18, 2021, in Nashville, Tenn. The Titans won 34-31.

Associated Press

"The operation was very smooth, being on the road for us to not have coach Kliff," Murray said. "Whipple kept calling it aggressively and we got it going."

Arizona star linebacker Chandler Jones also tested positive for the coronavirus, as did D-linemen Zach Allen and Corey Peters.

The Cardinals were unfazed. "I think we were even more excited because the odds seemed stacked against us," Murray said.

Following the game, owner Michael Bidwell reached Kingsbury, who was able to talk to several players and coaches via FaceTime.

"I couldn't really hear him because it was pretty loud," Murray said of the raucous locker room that might only have been rivaled by the Raiders'.

They appeared ripe for an unraveling after the stunning downfall of their iconic coach, Jon Gruden, who resigned in disgrace last

week over sexist, racist and anti-gay sentiments he had expressed in old emails.

Like Whipple, Raiders offensive coordinator Greg Olson ratcheted up the aggression in his first game as a play-caller in seven seasons. He dialed up a steady diet of deep throws for Derek Carr in a 34-24 statement win at Denver that thrust the Raiders into a first-place tie with the Chargers atop the AFC West at 4-2.

"The advantage to us, this is the first game 'Oly' called in a while," said special teams lifer Rich Bisaccia after his triumphant debut as the Raiders' interim head coach. The Broncos said all week they were expecting the same Raiders team to show up, and they were right. But Las Vegas' offense had a different twist as Olson used more play-action, allowing Carr to hit some more big plays that had been lacking the previous two games, when the offense stalled under Gruden's run-first philosophy.

Carr's seven explosive pass plays accounted for a whopping 257 yards and included touchdown throws of 48 and 31 yards against a Broncos secondary that is the league's priciest.

Carr got things started with a 48-yard TD pass to Henry Ruggs III on the Raiders' first possession, the team's first opening drive score since last season. He also threw a 31-yard TD pass to Kenyan Drake. It added up to the most efficient day on offense for the Raiders in nearly a quarter-century with their 8.19 yards per play, doubling the rate of the final two games under Gruden.

"For us, we are always looking to push the ball down the field," Carr said. "We always believe we can do that."

The Raiders became the first team since at least 1991 to have seven pass plays gain at least 25 yards, according to Sportradar. Coincidentally, the losers of both of those games have a short week before playing each other in Cleveland on Thursday night in a matchup of battered 3-3 teams trying to maintain relevancy in 2021. □



Jacksonville Jaguars kicker Matthew Wright (15), center, celebrates after kicking a field goal to win the match during the second half of an NFL football game between the Miami Dolphins and the Jacksonville Jaguars at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium in London, England, Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — The Jacksonville Jag-

Jags cut Lambo after Wright wins kicking job moving forward

uars cut veteran kicker Josh Lambo on Tuesday, two days after unheralded Matt Wright hit two field goals from beyond 50 yards in the final minutes to beat Miami and end the NFL's longest losing streak in 44 years. Lambo, the league's most accurate kicker between 2017 and 2020, was inactive the last three games while dealing with confidence issues.

"We all in athletics have dealt with that, whether it be a pitcher, whether it be a golfer, whether it be

a kicker," Jaguars coach Urban Meyer said recently. The Jaguars (1-5) are on the hook for the remainder of Lambo's \$3.5 million salary in 2021, a deal that likely includes offset language that would allow the team to recoup some money if he signs elsewhere.

Lambo missed five kicks in Jacksonville's first three games: three field goals and two extra points. He was sidelined 12 games last year with a hip injury that required surgery, but he said before Week 1 that

his confidence "is as high as ever" despite also missing kicks in training camp and the preseason.

But the recurring misses apparently took their toll on Lambo, who has declined recent interview requests. Without Lambo available, Jacksonville turned to Wright. A Pennsylvania native nicknamed "Matty Ice" during his recording-setting college career at Central Florida, Wright has made six of seven extra points and three of four field goals. □